

PROCEEDINGS
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THE IDENTITY OF *OLIGODON CYCLURUS* (CANTOR, 1839) AND REVALIDATION OF *OLIGODON BREVICAUDA* (STEINDACHNER, 1867)
 (SERPENTES: COLUBRIDAE)

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Simotes brevicauda was described by Steindachner (1867: 61) on the basis of a single specimen lacking precise locality data from "Cochinchina." Boulenger (1894:219) placed it in the synonymy of *Simotes cyclurus* (Cantor). Since that time, Steindachner's *brevicauda* has appeared in the literature only as a synonym of *Oligodon cyclurus* (Cantor). I have recently examined its holotype, and find that it represents a valid species of the genus *Oligodon*. *Oligodon brevicauda* (Steindachner) is a secondary homonym of *Oligodon brevicauda* Günther (1862:58), and a new name must be proposed.

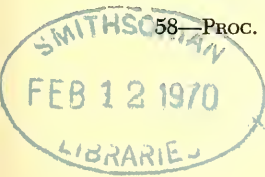
***Oligodon analepticus* new name**

Simotes brevicauda Steindachner 1867:61.

Holotype: Nat. Mus. Wien 16530 from "Cochinchina," collected by Verreaux in 1865.

Diagnosis: Scales smooth, in 19 rows at neck, reducing to 17 rows between 80th and 97th ventral, reducing to 15 rows between 95th and 117th ventral. Maxillary teeth 10 or 11, last three abruptly enlarged and recurved. Venter immaculate.

Redescription of holotype: Rostral large; visible from above. Parietals longer than frontal; distance from frontal to rostral less than half length of frontal. Loreal present. Eight upper labials, fourth and fifth bordering eye. Eye also bordered by presubocular, preocular, supraocular and two postoculars. Temporals $\frac{2}{1} + 2$. Scales smooth, reducing as follows 19 $\frac{3+4(93)}{3+4(92)}$ 17 $\frac{4+5(114)}{4+5(113)}$ 15. Ten maxillary teeth. Ventrals 162; caudals 44. Twelve dark brown blotches on body, separated by



series of three darker reticulations; two dorsal blotches on tail. Venter immaculate. Length of head 22.7 mm. Length of tail 71.0 mm. Total length 620.0 mm. Sex: female.

Additional specimens referred to O. analepticos: Nat. Mus. Wien 19166:1-4, Annam; USNM 95080, 90409, Bao Loc; USNM 146178-79, Fyan; Nat. Mus. Wien 19167:1, 19167:2, Phuc Son; USNM 144218, 13 km. west Poste M'Drak; USNM 164373, near Bong Son; USNM 163859, near Chu Lai. All localities are in Vietnam.

There has been, and still is, considerable confusion as to the validity of several taxa now referred to the genus *Oligodon*. Perhaps the most confusing are the members of the *cyclurus* group. This is at least partially due to the inadequate original description of Cantor (1839:50), in which he described *Coronella cyclura* but failed to designate a type locality. Subsequently the holotype of *cyclura* has been lost, leaving very little on which to form an opinion as to the identity of Cantor's species. In the interest of nomenclatural stability, it seems best to designate a neotype, thus establishing a type locality in the area where most specimens that recent workers have assigned to *cyclurus* have been collected. I, therefore, designate as the neotype USNM 72067, a male collected in Bangkok, Thailand, by Hugh M. Smith on September 8, 1934.

Oligodon cyclurus (Cantor)

Coronella cyclura Cantor, 1839:50.

Oligodon cyclurus-Smith, 1943:202.

Neotype: USNM 72067 from Bangkok, Thailand, collected by H. M. Smith, September 8, 1934.

Diagnosis: Scales smooth, in 21 rows at neck, reducing to 19 rows between 95th and 113th ventral, reducing to 17 rows between 108th and 152nd ventral. Maxillary teeth 10, rarely 9 or 11, last three abruptly enlarged and recurved. Venter immaculate.

Description of neotype: Rostral large, visible from above. Parietals longer than frontal; distance from frontal to rostral less than half length of frontal. Loreal present. Eight upper labials, fourth and fifth bordering eye. Eye also bordered by presubocular, preocular, supra-ocular, and two postoculars. Temporals $2 + \frac{1}{2}$. Scales smooth reducing as follows $21 \frac{4+5(105)}{4+5(105)} 19 \frac{4+5(111)}{4+5(112)} 17$. Ten maxillary teeth. Ventrals 162; caudals 44. Fourteen dark brown dorsal blotches on body, separated by series of three darker reticulations; four dorsal blotches on tail. Venter immaculate. Length of head 17.5 mm. Length of tail 71.0 mm. Total length 456.0 mm. Sex: male.

Additional specimens referred to O. cyclurus: USNM 70324, 70326, 72066-72069, 75683, 75684, 76122, 79472-79474, 81838, 83432, 94757, 94758, 100994, 101287, Bangkok; USNM 70355, 101290, Lam Tong Lam; USNM 94931, Sam Roi Yot; USNM 76090, Pichit. All localities are in Thailand.

Oligodon analepticos may easily be distinguished from *O. cyclurus* by both geography and by dorsal scale row count. In all specimens examined from Thailand and Laos the dorsals reduce from 21 to 19 then to 17, as opposed to all South Vietnamese specimens which reduce from 19 to 17 then to 15 scale rows. On the basis of material examined sympatry can not be demonstrated.

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